



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

Est. 1983 (A Not-for-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162

CMP Affiliate Number 026160



President
Show/Reservations Manager
Membership

Rob Becker
Andrew Woodard
George Dungan

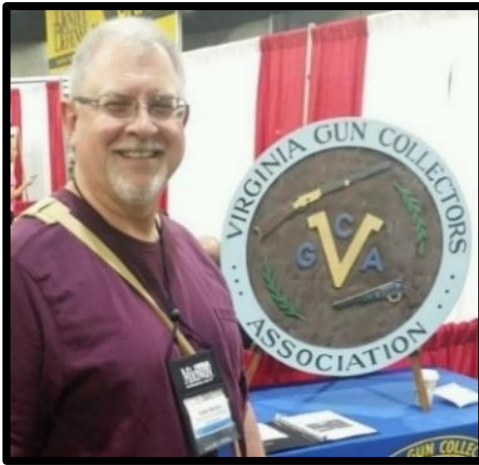
Phone: 703-441-1211
Cell: 301-613-5718
Phone: 571-243-6387

rpebecker@verizon.net
ajw055570@aol.com
george@eccominv.com

Website: www.vgca.net
Facebook: @VirginiaGunCollectorsAssoc

Twitter: @VAGunCollectrs
Instagram: @vaguncollectors

January 2026 VGCA Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Happy New Year to our Members!

A new year usually means new beginnings. A time to reflect on where you are and set goals for where you want to be. Our organization is no different. At our January membership Meeting, I will provide a "State of the Organization" update and review the progress we made in 2025 as well as our Board-approved goals for 2026. As always, your inputs are welcome!

Speaking of the next time we get together, our January Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 24th, starting at 2 p.m. Shannon Zeigler will be giving a presentation on the German MG42 and we will have pizza for those hungry for a late lunch/afternoon snack. We will also announce the winner of the 2025 VGCA Member of the Year award. You may recall that a couple of Saturday meetings were scheduled in an effort to increase participation at meetings by members who have a tough time attending on a work night. Our other Saturday meeting this year will be on March 28th.

2026 promises to be an interesting (and not in a good way!) year for gun laws in Virginia. I implore each of you to stay engaged this legislative session and to make your voice heard when ridiculous anti-2A bills are being proposed. This is our right. This is our duty.

Again, Happy New Year and I hope to see you this Saturday afternoon! Bring a buddy! Cheers!

Rob Becker, VGCA President

★ Holiday Potluck and Swap Meet

Saturday, December 13th represented another in a long line of delicious annual VGCA Holiday Potluck meals and successful swap meets! There were over 40 VGCA members and their family in attendance and the spread of food was the best your editor can remember. Anchored by the traditional honey-cured ham provided by the club, there was an extensive spread of chicken strips, side dishes, and, of course, desserts!



There was a brief business meeting (details on page 5) and one Show-n-Tell item (page 32), but other than that, the evening was spent in friendly fellowship!

President Emeritus Jim Burgess (*near right*) prepares to enjoy a hearty dinner with all the fixin's! It is your editor's opinion that this was the best spread of food that we have had in years!





Members George and Dan (*above left*), Marc, Ernie, and Bill (*above right*), and Louie, Shannon, Chris, and another VGCA President Emeritus Ed Costello (*below*) seemed to thoroughly enjoy their evening of good food and good friends!



There is one follow-up to the swap meet – if the refinished Artillery Luger is still for sale, would the seller please contact member Carlos Davila (703-505-9519) as he is interested in buying it.

Happy New Years, everyone!

★ Next Membership Meeting: Saturday, Jan 24th
Presentation: “The MG42” by Shannon Zeigler
Location: NRA HQ Basement Auditorium

Our January VGCA Membership Meeting will be in the basement auditorium of the NRA Headquarters. **The meeting will start at 2 p.m.** In addition to the presentation, we will announce the 2025 VGCA Member of the Year and President Rob Becker will give his annual “State of the Association” update. We will also have pizza for those hungry for a late lunch or afternoon snack. We hope you can make it!

★ 2025/2026 Presentation & Event List

MEETING DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER
24 Jan 2026 (Sat)	The German MG42	Shannon Zeigler
February 2026	No Meeting due to Spring Gun Show (28 Feb – 1 Mar)	
28 Mar 2026 (Sat)	The Beretta 92 – Part 1	Louie DiGaetano
23 Apr 2026	Spanish ‘Tubular’ Pistols – Astra & Clones	Jaume Canaves
28 May 2026	Colt Mk III J-Frames	Jim Ashing
25 Jun 2026	Suhl Weapons/German Hunting Guns and Laws	Clayton Vieg
23 Jul 2026	Expanded Show-n-Tell – Theme “Guns I paid too much for”	

If you have any presentation suggestions or would like to make a presentation yourself in 2026 (September and October are still open) – please contact Chris Britton or any officer or director.

★ NRA Publications Are Changing

VGCA members who are also members of the National Rifle Association (NRA) should note that the NRA recently announced that they were changing their printed publications. As of last month, the NRA published four print magazines – ***American Rifleman***, ***American Hunter***, ***America's 1st Freedom***, and ***Shooting Illustrated***. Starting this month (January 2026), those four will be reduced to the first two – ***American Rifleman*** and the ***American Hunter***. If you already receive one of these two mags, you will continue to do so, though their distribution will now be via monthly electronic editions and four quarterly print copies per year. If you used to receive one of the discontinued magazines (either ***America's 1st Freedom*** or ***Shooting Illustrated***) you can choose to get one of the remaining publications.

This change supports NRA's recently announced organization restructuring, aka "NRA 2.0". Per the NRA, these changes "are aimed at maximizing member dollars, streamlining operations, and investing in critical programs that best serve NRA members and ensure the long-term strength of the organization." To make sure the NRA has your current information, go to <https://membership.nra.org/OfficialJournal/Signin>



★ December Meeting Notes

After everyone had filled their bellies from the excellent Potluck spread, President Rob Becker initiated a short business meeting at 5:35 p.m. There were 41 VGCA and their family members present.

Rob (*near right*) opened by presenting a \$2500 donation from the VGCA to the NRA's National Firearms Museum.

Accepting on behalf of the museum was assistant curator and long-time VGCA Life Member and former President Ernie Lyles (*far right*). Earmarked specifically for the National Firearms Museum, this donation in a small repays the NRA in a small way for allowing the VGCA to use the NRA facilities for our Board and Membership meetings.



VGCA Member and photographer Jack Looney announced that his recent shoulder surgery was successful, though on-going rehabilitation will prevent him from using his tables reserved for our Spring Gun Show (scheduled for 28 Feb-1 Mar). Contact Andrew Woodard if you are interested in renting them.

Member Clayton Vieg gave a brief update on anti-gun legislation being proposed for the incoming Virginia legislative session. Governor-elect Abigail Spanberger has already stated that she will sign into law any "common sense" gun bills that come to her. This could be a tough year in Virginia for gun collectors. Editor's Note: Sign up for free notices of the latest gun-related news out of the Virginia legislature from the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL) at <https://www.vcdl.org/>.

Member Marc Gorelick reminded those in attendance that this was the last opportunity to vote for the 2025 VGCA Member of the Year. The winner will be announced at the January Membership Meeting and will receive a voucher worth \$100 as well as a free sales table at one of our future gun shows.

Speaking of our January Membership Meeting, Rob reminded everyone that it will be held on **Saturday**, January 24th, starting at 2 p.m.



Finally, Member and VGCA Treasurer Shannon Zeigler (*at left*) brought in an MG42, which will be the subject of his presentation in January. He asked if anyone had any questions about the MG42 to let him know so he could plan on answering them in his presentation. You can contact him at Shannon.Zeigler@gmail.com.



CZECHOSLOVAKIAN Vz35 AIR RIFLE TRAINER

By Marc Gorelick



Vz35. Photo courtesy of Joh. Springers Erben, Vienna, Austria

The Vz.35 is a Czechoslovakian military airgun trainer from the 1930s. It was commissioned by the Czechoslovakian Army in 1935, when that country was building up its armed forces in case of a German invasion. The trainer resembles the standard Czechoslovak Vz.24 battle rifle of which almost one million were made beginning in 1924. The Vz.24 has been called one of the finest Mauser-patterned military bolt-action rifles. In comparison, relatively few Vz.35 airgun trainers were produced. Total production figures are unknown, but, according to one Czech source, serial numbers in the high 27,000's have been observed.



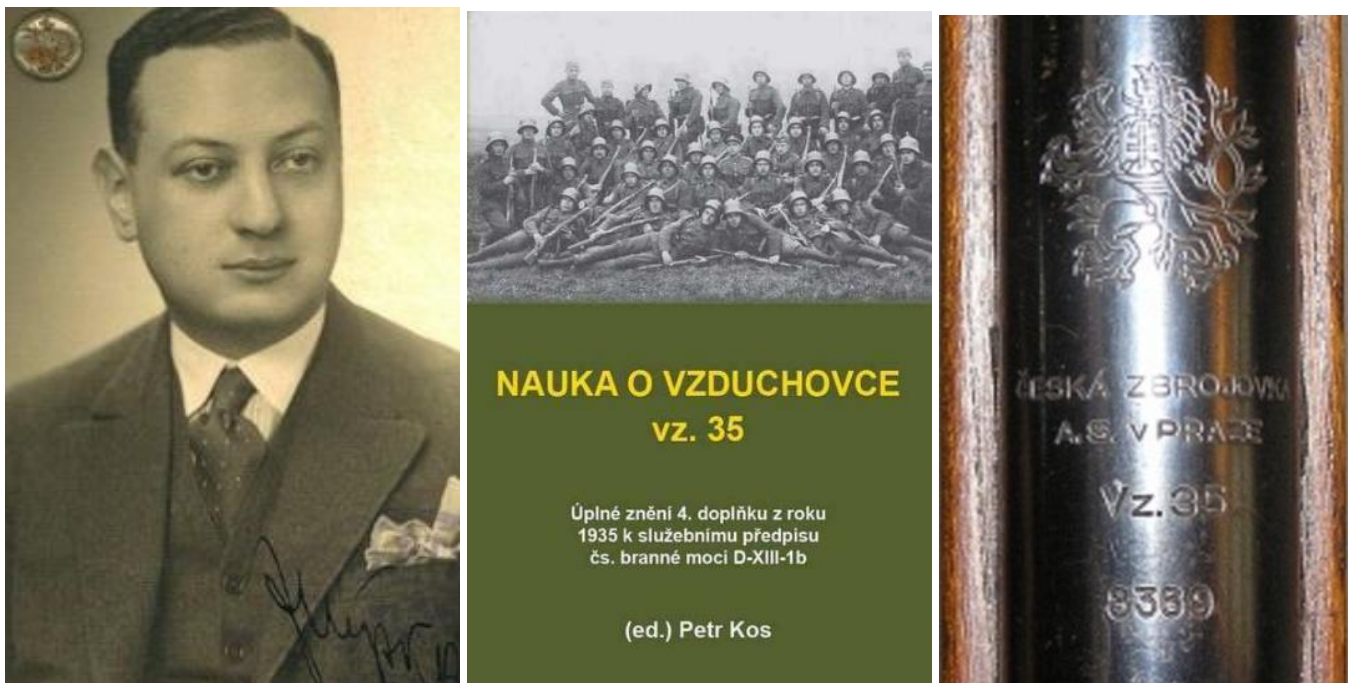
Vz35. Photo courtesy of Joh. Springers Erben, Vienna, Austria.

Czechoslovakia was created in 1918 at the end of World War I from the ashes of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Czech armaments industry, both factories and manufacturing quality were among the best of the day. Česká Zbrojovka, the Czech Arms Factory, which produced rifles, crew served weapons and other armaments, would eventually make the Vz.35 air rifle as well.

Between World Wars I and II Czechoslovakia faced a number of threats. Immediately after World War I, in January 1919, fighting broke out between Czechoslovakia and Poland over the Cieszyn region. From November 1918 to August 1919 the new republic (with allied Romania) fought and won a war against invading communist Hungary. As a result of the war, Czechoslovakia gained control over the territory of Slovakia, which had previously been part of Hungary. In October 1921 the country again mobilized for war with Hungary in response to attempts by former Habsburg Emperor Karl I to reclaim the throne of Hungary. Czechoslovakia was allied with Romania and what would become Yugoslavia in the "Little Entente" in order to prevent the restoration of the Hapsburgs and protect their new-found sovereignty. A greater threat would arise after Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany and made open demands for territorial concessions containing ethnic Germans, especially the Sudetenland of Western Czechoslovakia.

Once again, Czechoslovakia prepared to go to war and built defenses in the Sudetenland. In the rush to train more troops, the VTLU (“Military Technical and Aviation Institute”) recognized that they needed dedicated training rifles. Issue Vz24 rifles were needed by trained formations. Also, the bores of issue rifles used in training were being worn out from the sheer volume of firing and the corrosive primers of the day. Additionally, using regular ammunition for training was expensive. The Czechoslovak Ministry of National Defense (MNO) main staff decided that an air rifle would be best for training purposes and set the initial number needed at 6,000. In December of 1934, the VTLU solicited design proposals for a new training rifle with technical specifications specifically calling for an air rifle that would closely copy the dimensions, look, weight and handling of the standard Czechoslovakian 7.92x57mm Vz.24 battle rifle. The call for design proposals gave ten different technical requirements for the air rifle’s design, including bolt operation, a safety that resembled the Vz24 Mauser, trigger pull, rifle weight, sight, and 4.45 mm round shot. The rear sight would be adjustable for distances of 10, 15 and 30 meters and could be used for as short a range as 5 meters.

VTLU sent their requirements to both the Česká Zbrojovka in Strakonice and the Československá Zbrojovka in Brno, asking for designs. The winning design came from the noted small arms designer František Myška who was the lead designer at Česká Zbrojovka’s (CZ) factory in Strakonice. Myška also developed the Vz38 submachine gun and the Vz24, 27, 36 and 38 pistols. He was born on September 30, 1902, and started working at CZ when he was 22 years old. Being Jewish, the German Nazis deported him to the Majdanek extermination camp in Poland where he was murdered on September 4, 1942.



Above left - František Myška. <https://www.holocaust.cz/en/database-of-victims/victim/110669-frantisek-myška/>
 Above center – Reproduction reprint of a Vz35 manual. “Nauka o Vzduchovce” means “Air Rifle Science”
 Above right - Czechoslovak army lion crest and markings on a Vz35 air gun trainer. Vz35 produced under the Nazis would not have the lion crest. Photo courtesy of Vzduchovka.cz.

Myška worked closely with VTLU to perfect his design to meet VTLU’s requirements. He had studied the German Haenel 33 air rifle, where he found inspiration for the design of the Vz35’s cocking mechanism. Česká Zbrojovka applied for patent protection for the air rifle design on February 12, 1935, but there was a patent dispute with Hugo Schmeisser which wasn’t settled for many years, and Patent number 72,901 wasn’t issued until March 1944. During the rifle’s development the caliber was slightly

changed and ultimately a rifled bore with 12 grooves was chosen. The VTLU required an endurance test of 50,000 rounds fired, which the prototype airgun passed.

The new air training rifle was designated the *vzor 35* (Vz35) (Model of 1935) and entered production under the internal designation object Z 138. The first order for 6003 pieces was issued by the MNO on October 4, 1935, with an invoice amount of 3,247,382.90 Czech crowns (about \$155,199 US). The order called for the Česká Zbrojovka in Strakonice to deliver the first batch of 2000 air rifles by October 15 with another 1000 rifles to be delivered by October 30. The factory was to produce the second half of the order by May 31, 1936. However, by the end of 1935, the army had taken only 2000 air rifles. The factory delivered the remaining 4000 air rifles during the spring of 1936.

Further orders followed. By the end of October 1936, the arms factory reported 6,604 air rifles produced out of a total of 9,000 units in production. The MNO placed another order for Vz35 air rifles on November 25, 1937, for 400 in army configuration and 100 in sports model configuration rifles at a total price of 252,900 crowns.

On 1 March 1937, the MNO main staff replaced the old separate military education department with a new one. Air rifles intended for military training were to be marked with the letters **BV** on the stock. At that time, the arms factory was already working on an order dated August 17, 1938, for another 3,000 Vz35 air rifles, half of which were ordered in the army Mauser configuration version and the other half in the sport version. The Ministry paid 1,440,000 crowns for them in total. The factory received its last pre-war order a few days later, on August 29, 1938, and apparently supplied the army with 300 unfinished Vz35 air rifles together with spare parts. According to Czech records, Česká Zbrojovka produced a total of 9,843 Vz35 air training rifles for the Czechoslovak Army from 1935 through 1938.

Česká Zbrojovka did not neglect the promotion of the new product and offered Vz35 air rifles to military training centers (SBV), the SOKOL Gymnastics Units and the National Rifle Guards. It also marketed the rifles to middle-class, secondary and vocational schools. However, its outside sales were hindered by the Vz35's relatively high price for an air rifle of about 540 crowns and, according to Vojensky Historiky Ustav, Praha (VHU or Military Historical Institute, Prague), the company sold only about 601 Vz35 air rifles outside the army.

The factory produced VZ35 trainers in two versions. Most were the army training version that copied the military configuration of the Vz24 issue rifle. The second version was a sporter model. The sporterized model for the army has the same length barrel with a different (sporter) stock, no upper handguard, and no bayonet lug and no sling swivels. However, the action of both versions is the same. Interestingly, the army ordered both the military and the sporter versions, possibly because in the ramp up to war, the sporter version was cheaper, easier and faster to manufacture. Both training (army and sports) versions had a standard barrel length of 21.73 inches (552 mm). Česká Zbrojovka also offered a "civilian style" sport version with a shorter barrel length of 16.73 inches (425 mm) and a weight of 6.83 pounds (3.1 kg).

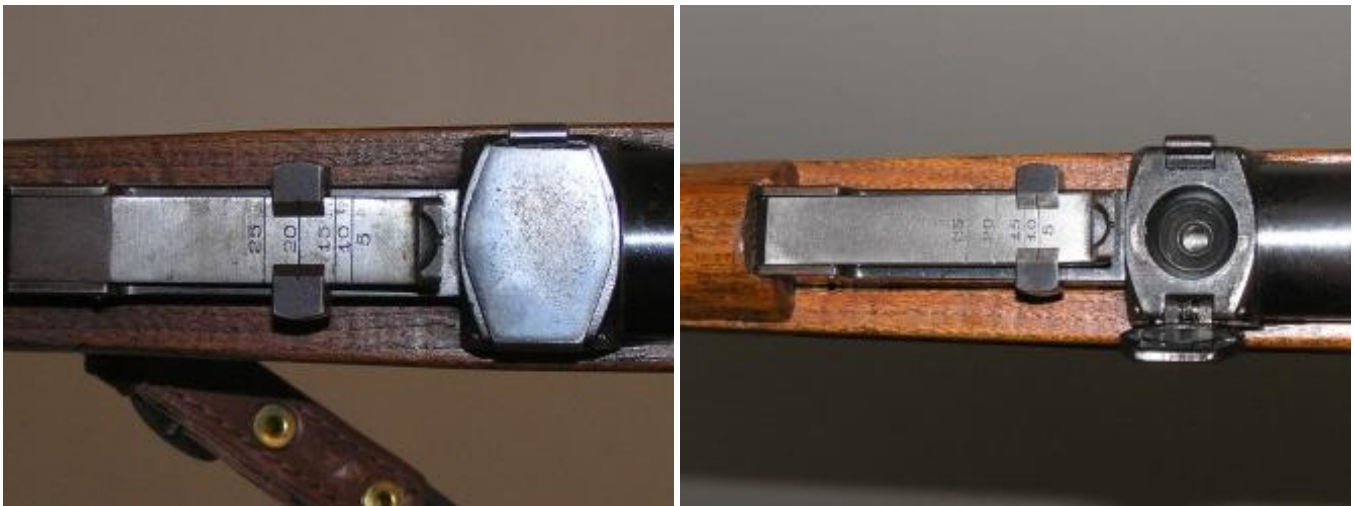
Despite preparing for war, time was running out for Czechoslovakia. As a result of the Munich Agreement of 1938 Czechoslovakia lost the Sudetenland and the country's border fortifications in that region (thank you Neville Chamberlain). Germany took the remainder of the country the following year and acquired the superb Czechoslovakian armaments industry.

The Germans regarded the Vz35 highly enough to continue production into the early 1940's. Many were exported to the German company Gustav Genschow (GECO) in Berlin for training the *Reichsarbeitsdienst* or "German Labor Force". (NOTE: The German or Reich Labor Force was a major paramilitary organization established in Nazi Germany to militarize the workforce and indoctrinate it with Nazi ideology. During World War II, compulsory service also included young women, and the

organization developed into an auxiliary formation in the Wehrmacht and Luftwaffe. END NOTE.) Vz35's produced under Nazi occupation are fairly easy to recognize. They do not have the large Czechoslovak Lion crest and Czechoslovakian Army acceptance stamps, and they typically have serial numbers above 10,000.

The Vz35 is basically a BB air gun. But instead of a piston with a flat seal like that of a spring-powered pellet rifle, the Vz35 has a plunger. A long air tube on the front of a piston pushes the ball out of the breech and moves it down the barrel. That starts at around 50-75 fps. When the plunger seal closes on the end of the compression chamber it sends a blast of compressed air down the barrel or air tube to the back of the ball. This accelerates the ball to its final velocity of around 425 fps.

The VZ 35 is a repeater that holds around 20 lead 1.77 caliber (4.5mm) BBs in a magazine (hopper) on top of the spring tube just to the rear of the rear sight. When the rifle is cocked, the air tube on the plunger retracts far enough to let one ball fall down in front of it. The cover or lid of the hopper is spring-loaded and opens for loading when a catch is pushed.



Above left - Magazine behind the rear sight with the cover closed. Above right – magazine behind rear sight with the cover open. The magazine holds about 20 .177 caliber BBs. Photo courtesy of Vzduchovka.cz.



Vz35 bolt in normal position. Rotating safety in front of the bolt handle in the up position. Photo courtesy of Vzduchovka.cz.

The Vz35 has been described as hard to cock. To cock it, one rotates the bolt handle 90 degrees until it is straight up which unlocks it for cocking. Then the shooter pulls it back and down through an arc. Instead of coming straight back, the bolt is attached to a lever at its base that is anchored inside the stock. The bolt is pivoted at its base and travels inside the action, pulling the powerful mainspring into full compression. The bolt is then pushed forward and rotated down to the right, making the gun ready to fire. It has been reported that it needs considerable force to pull the bolt back and down to cock the piece.

There is a rotating safety just in front of the bolt handle that resembles the safety on the Vz24 Mauser. When the safety knob is in the up position the airgun cannot be fired. When it is in the down position to the side the Vz35 can be fired.



Left - Vz35 bolt in the pulled back and down position to cock the airgun. Photo courtesy of Vzduchovka.cz.

The Vz35 training rifle has an overall length of 43.31 inches (1,100mm). The barrel is 21.73 inches (552mm) long and the gun weighs approximately 8.82 pounds (4kg). In comparison, the Vz24 Mauser, which the Vz35 was designed to emulate, is 43.3 inches (1,100mm) long, with a 23.23 inch (590mm) long barrel and weighs 9.2 pounds (4.2kg).

The trigger pull is heavy, resembling a Vz24 Mauser's heavy trigger pull.

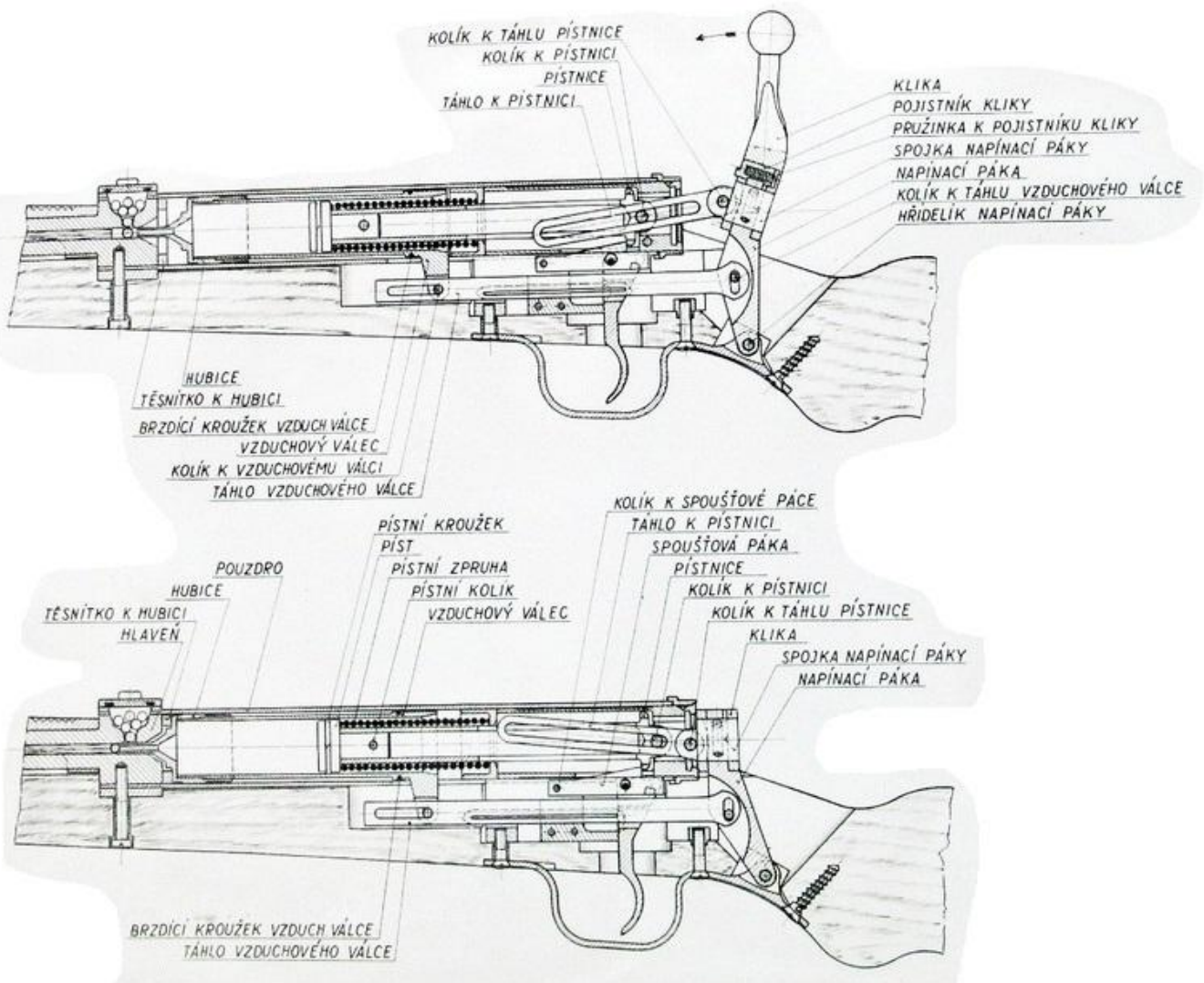


Diagram of the Vz35 action mechanism. Vojensky Historiky Ustav, Praha



Comparison of Vz35 air training rifle (above) to a Vz24 Mauser rifle made at Brno (below). Top photo Vojensky Historiky Ustav, Praha. Bottom photo courtesy of Joh. Springers Erben.



The Vz35 bayonet lug is identical to the Vz24 Mauser's lug and mounts the same bayonet as the Vz24 Mauser in the same way. (See photos above and left.) The Czech Vz24 bayonets have an inverted blade, with the cutting edge up. Some export Vz24 bayonets have the cutting edge down.

Original Czechoslovak army Vz35 airgun manuals are extremely hard to find. They were small booklets that were intended for armorers. Finding a manual in English is like finding a needle in a haystack. The Vz35 has a very complex mechanism and the original manual warns that the air rifle should only be disassembled by a trained armorer.

Czechoslovak Vz35's are rugged and well made. The hardwood stock and handguard resemble that of the Vz24 Mauser rifle. All metal parts are both deeply blued and polished to a high luster, or else like the rear sight, are left bright.

In 1947 the Czechs adopted the Vz47 air training rifle which was based on the Vz35. The Vz47's mechanism is a simplified version of the Vz35's but operates in the same fashion.

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★ How to watch the January Meeting from Home

We will not be broadcasting our December Holiday Potluck and Swap Meet, but we return to using JITSI as our new free streaming service in January 2026. You can join via your phone through the app or via your browser on the computer. Neither requires an account. All you need to join a JITSI meeting is a link, like the one below. Simply click the link.

Click the following link to join the meeting: <https://meet.jit.si/vgca-january2026>

You will be asked to enter your name. You can enter your actual name or use a pseudonym. It will then prompt you to allow access to camera and microphone, which you also do not need to gain access to the meeting. Then click “Join” – it is as simple as that!

Just want to dial in on your phone? Dial-in: +1.512.647.1431 PIN: 3369221941 followed by #. Click this link to see the dial in phone numbers for this meeting <https://meet.jit.si/static/dialInInfo.html?room=v.gca-january2026>

★ TAURUS GX4 PISTOL SAFETY RECALL

By Marc Gorelick



Taurus has issued a safety recall of its GX4 micro-compact 9mm semi-automatic pistols. This notice pertains to certain GX4 pistols that were assembled and sold exclusively within the United States. Taurus recently discovered that under specific circumstances, these pistols may discharge when accidentally dropped.

Taurus urges all GX4 owners to take this matter seriously and go to the Taurus website at <https://gx4safetynotice.com/> to find out if your GX4 is one of those affected and what to do.

Go to the website. Enter your pistol's serial number in the indicated space. The website will let you know if your GX4 is subject to the recall and what to do next. Taurus said that it will inspect, repair, if necessary, and return your pistol to you as soon as possible, FREE of charge.

You can also contact Taurus by phone at (229) 515-8464, by online submission at <https://www.taurususa.com/support/service-request> email, or by U.S. mail at Taurus International Manufacturing, Inc., 100 Taurus Way, Bainbridge, GA 39817.



★ Important Update: VGCA Membership Dues Going Up in 2026

The VGCA Executive Committee approved an increase in membership dues. Effective on January 1st, 2026, Annual Membership costs have increased to \$40 (from the current \$30) per year and Life Memberships increased to \$250 (from the current \$150). These increases in dues, the first in over 30 years, are necessary to help cover the increased costs associated with membership.

★ S&W Factory Tour Postponed



Due to a conflict with the Smith & Wesson personnel in Marysville, Tennessee, we had to postpone our scheduled factory tour that had been scheduled for last November.

Smith & Wesson®

As of now, we are hoping to reschedule the tour for Spring 2026, possibly combined with a visit to the Beretta Factory in Gallatin, Tennessee. Please stay tuned for details as we work to get this trip scheduled. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

★ Reminder – First Meeting of 2026

Our first membership meeting next year will be held on **SATURDAY, January 24th, starting at 2 p.m.** Shannon Zeigler will give a presentation on the German MG-42 machine gun.

★ We need your help with our Newsletter!

Do you love history and firearms, are reasonably organized, have a decent command of the English language, possess fair computer skills, and can dedicate a few hours each month to the VGCA? Then you may be just the person to take over as our newsletter editor! Rob Becker will continue as our editor through the early 2026 issue but is looking for some relief. If you think this is something you would be willing to take on – in whole or in part - please contact any of the officers or directors.

★ VGCA Social Media Accounts ★

Our Instagram account
@vaguncollectors
has 359 posts with 940 followers as of 17 Jan 2026.
Follow us for a regular dose of interesting gun-related content!

Our VGCA youtube.com channel
@vgca-virginiaguncollectorsasso
has 22 videos and 77 subscribers as of 17 Jan 2026.

The VGCA Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaGunCollectorsAssoc/>
 has 359 posts with 1836 followers as of 17 Jan 2026.

★ Hampton Roads Military Society

The Hampton Roads Militaria Society (HRMS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to assist collectors and historians in the collection & preservation of militaria of all sorts and periods, preserve and honor our military past, and honor the veterans of all our conflicts. They generally meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, but this can vary. The HRMS is a sister organization to the VGCA and VGCA members are welcome to participate as guests in their meetings and tours. Upcoming meetings (at Rescue Squad No. 8 at 1243 Bayne Drive in VA Beach) are:

10 Feb 2026 “Battle of Little Bighorn” by Tom Graham

10 Mar 2026 “The last four battles at Petersburg in late March and early April 1865” by Jim Mayo
These battles led to the breaking of Confederate lines and the surrender at Appomattox a week later.

14 Apr 2026, “South Vietnamese Armor - An Advisor's Comments” by Nelson Voke

12 May 2026 “World War 1, Fall 1918, the Hundred Days Offensive, Part 2” by Jim Paschall
May include Sergeant York, Patton, the Lost Battalion, the Battle of St. Mihiel and possibly parts of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

“A man can never have too much red wine, too many books, or too much ammunition.”

--Rudyard Kipling

Born December 30, 1865. Died January 18, 1936

VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION: JOSEF HAMBRUSCH OF FERLACH SIDE BY SIDE SHOTGUN

By Marc Gorelick

Photos courtesy of Joh. Springers Erben, Vienna, Austria



Ferlach, Austria has been called the European Mecca of custom gunmaking. Among the famous Ferlach custom gunmakers the name Hambrusch stands out and is synonymous with gunmaking artistry. Gunsmiths have been making guns in Ferlach since about 1550 and name of Hambrusch was first documented in Ferlach records on April 24, 1752, making the firm the oldest continuously operating gunsmith and manufacturer of hunting guns in that burg. Hambrusch has been owned and operated by the same family for 11 generations, first under the name of "Josef Hambrusch" until December 31, 1988, and since then under the name of "Hambrusch Jagdwaffengesellschaft m.b.H." Lead by Peter Hambrusch, the firm continues the tradition of producing bespoke hunting guns which are treasured worldwide as true works of art in steel and wood, and which meet the highest demands for quality. Combining the best of old-world craftsmanship by master gunsmiths with cutting edge technology the firm creates works of art that are also the epitome of quality, strength and precision.



While not the most ornate or expensive Joseph Hambrusch gun, this elegant 12-gauge, side by side shotgun is a good example of the quality and artistry that makes each Hambrusch gun a unique object of art. Made in 1957 this back action sidelock shotgun has 28-inch (71cm) long barrels that are $\frac{3}{4}$ and full

chocked with a concave engine-turned rib. The bright action has flat fences, intercepting sears, a cocking indicator, and automatic sliding tang safety.



The bright action has delicate full-coverage rose and scroll engraving with inlaid gold game birds – there is a gold woodcock on the left side of the action, a gold duck on the right side, and a gold pheasant on the action bottom. The breeches are also engraved. The shotgun has gold-washed double triggers with articulated front blade and an elongated horn trigger guard.



The beautifully grained walnut stock has a pistol grip, oval cheekpiece, and elongated ventilated rubber recoil pad. The beavertail-fore-end has an Anson push-rod, and it, and the pistol grip of the stock have extremely fine and precise checkering. The gun also has sling swivel eyes.



Although they are often ornately decorated, Josef Hambrusch guns are not mere “safe queens” but were made to be used. Despite seeing 66 years of use, the superb quality, craftsmanship, fit and finish of this fine gun are still impeccable.



Micah Hawthorne of Gainesville sponsored by **Louie DiGaetano**

Colin Reilly of Centreville sponsored by - gun show

John E Keppeler of Richmond sponsored by **John J Keppeler**

- **Nathan Jones of Woodbridge**
- **Steven Wallace of Stafford**
- **Richard Stotler of Mineral**
- **James Williams of Alexandria**
- **Robert Adair of Pasadena, MD**
- **Thomas Unkle of Park Hall, MD**
- **Robert Deitrick of Woodbridge**
- **Michael Seeley of Norfolk**
- **Brandon Howell of Lorton**
- **Keith Dorset of Manassas**
- **Colin Reilly of Centreville**
- **Bruce Powell of Bala Cynwyd, PA**
- **Scott Huheey of McLean**

Notice to New Member Sponsors: Please ensure your prospective applicants provide a legible email address and telephone contact number if possible. Also, please make sure your name is clearly written on the sponsorship form. Without a valid email address, new members will not receive the newsletter or VGCA announcements.

Recruiting: Thank you to Bruce Buchner, Chris Britton, Frank Cooper, Shannon Zeigler, Dan Helm, Keith Simmons, Scott Huheey, Glen Ruh, Louie Digaetano, and all of the others who volunteered some of their time to work out membership table at the Nations Gun Show in Manassas. Your efforts bring more knowledge to our organization through the new members who have an interest in gun collecting. Membership in the VGCA is a great way for people with an interest in the history, development, and use of firearms to broaden their knowledge and share what they know with others. It also offers the opportunity to network with individuals who have similar interests. To facilitate new memberships, we have a Membership Table at every Nations gun show, as well as at our own VGCA gun shows.

George Dungan, Vice President and Membership Chair



CMP UPDATE

By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

The VGCA is a CMP Affiliated club. The VGCA club number is 026160.

CAMP PERRY NORTH STORE REDUCED WINTER HOURS

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) announced that the North Store at Camp Perry, Port Clinton, Ohio will have reduced winter days and hours. The North Store will be open on SATURDAYS ONLY, 8:30AM – 4:00PM, through the end of February 2026. The CMP North Store will resume normal business hours of being open Thursday through Saturday, 8:30AM – 4:00PM) on March 05, 2026.



The Camp Perry North Store address and contact information are:

Camp Perry Training Site

Bldg. 3 (CMP Headquarters)

Port Clinton, OH 43452 USA

Phone: (419) 635-2141, ext. 615/617

Email: northstore@thecmp.org

Located at Camp Perry's Ohio National Guard training site on the shore of Lake Erie, just west of Port Clinton, the CMP North store is an 80-mile drive from Cleveland or 40 miles from Toledo. For additional information about the North Store, as well as the CMP's South Store in Anniston, AL and the nearby Talladega Store at the Talladega Marksmanship Park, including maps and driving directions, go to the CMP website at: https://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/cmp-stores/#North. The website also has links to lists of nearby hotels. CMP Corporate Rates must be made by direct call and asking for "Civilian Marksmanship Program" or "CMP" Rate.

Beside rifles, the CMP stores sell ammunition, clothing, gifts, shooting equipment, (including stocks, shooting coats & jackets, shooting mats, scopes, targets, and shooting gloves), books (including manuals), and parts and Tools (including barrels, sights and scope mounts). The staff is helpful and includes armorers who can answer the most difficult questions and help you pick out your rifle. Review the CMP's eligibility requirements before going to the Camp Perry store, or either of the other stores,

2025 REVIEW AND LOOK FORWARD

Last year was a time of change at the CMP in their business model and surplus firearms programs. Here is a review of some of these developments:

Creedmoor Ammo Launch: Available through the CMP eStore and the CMPs physical stores. The CMP and Creedmoor Sports collaborated to produce match-grade .30-06 ammunition, tailored to the M1

Garand. The ammo features a Berger bullet atop a Lapua case, stuffed with Vihtavuori powder. Find this and other ammo on the eStore at <https://shop.thecmp.org/browse/Ammo?f=Commercial%20Ammo>.

CMP Goes Digital: The CMP digitized all online ordering channels to include Auction, Surplus Rifle, Surplus and Commercial Pistols. No more filling out a PDF form, printing it out, packing it along with the required documents into a big envelope, and sending it by snail mail. The CMP created digital payment links enabling its customers to pay at their convenience. The CMP transitioned its auction site to the **gunbroker.com** platform to give customers a better experience. The CMP also digitized its safety video viewing and affidavit process so that it can be completed in advance of visiting CMP ranges, to give you more time on the range. There is now a separate website for the Talladega Marksmanship Range.

Drill Receiver Reclamation Project: The Drill Receiver Reclamation Project is a landmark initiative designed to restore tens of thousands of previously deactivated M1 Garand and M1903A3 drill rifles into safe, functional and collectible firearms. With original receiver inventory nearly exhausted, CMP identified this project as a critical way to sustain future rifle production and preserve important historical assets. Extensive testing, engineering oversight and transparent communication make this program a model for responsible firearm reclamation and safety assurance.

CMP 1903A3 Expert Rifle Program: A key component of the Drill Receiver Reclamation initiative is the development of the CMP M1903A3 Expert Rifle, CMP’s first bolt-action rifle to carry the Expert Grade designation. The project utilizes reclaimed M1903A3 receivers from the drill inventory, each carefully inspected and refurbished to CMP’s Expert standards. This program expands CMP’s product line and appeals to collectors and shooters seeking historically accurate bolt-action rifles.



New CMP M1 Rifle Project: The New CMP M1 Rifle Project represents a return to U.S.-based production of forged, USGI-spec M1 Garand receivers. This is CMP’s first move into commercial firearms manufacturing in which it partnered with Heritage Arms. The program ensures the long-term viability of M1 rifle

sales after the depletion of legacy and reclaimed receiver inventories. The newly manufactured CMP M1 is faithful to the original design and built to modern manufacturing tolerances and materials standards. Full production is underway and the initial shipments began in November 2025. Standard production units are scheduled to begin shipping in early in 2026. The CMP is planning an expansion to include M1D, and “Tanker” variants, as well as different calibers.

M1911 Pistols: The CMP’s inventory and sales of M1911 pistols remains strong. The limit of four pistols per person per lifetime remains in effect for 2026. The CMP intends to bring in-person sales to the Talladega Marksmanship Park store in the March/April 2026 timeframe and to the Camp Perry store in June 2026 prior to the National Matches.

SO LONG, AND THANKS FOR ALL THE FISH *(Douglas Adams)*

I have been the VGCA’s first and (up to now) only CMP liaison for nine years. In 2017 I proposed that the VGCA become a CMP Affiliated Club in order to better serve the VGCA membership by providing an avenue to purchase surplus collectible arms and attract new members. I’ve enjoyed being CMP Liaison but nine years is long enough and it is time to give others a chance to serve the VGCA. Clayton

Vieg has agreed to be the new CMP Liaison. Cheerio, *Marc Corellick*



VGCA Members Win Awards at the All Colt Convention

By Rob Becker

The All Colt Convention is an annual event hosted by the Colt Collectors Association. Open to the public, this convention features Colt-related displays and presentations, as well as an auction on Saturday night. During the most recent All Colt Convention, held October 2-5, 2025, in Concord, North Carolina, the displays were judged in nine different categories. Of those nine, VGCA members took First Place in three of them!



Many of you recognize VGCA member Jim Ashing as an avid Colt collector. He has given a presentation to us on “Colt Boxes 1870-1970” (February 2021) and won not one, but two awards in October. The first was in the Double Action category and was for his Colt MK III Revolvers in the Colt traveling display (*above*). Used during 1974-75, this display has been out of circulation for five decades and its restoration took several months in Jim’s garage!

Jim's second award was for a display of a piece of Sam Colt's silver service that he (Sam) purchased in 1856 upon his marriage to Elizabeth (*right*). The crest on the cover is of the then new "Prancing Pony" coat of arms joining the Colt and Jarvis families. This historic piece took first place in the Colt Memorabilia category.



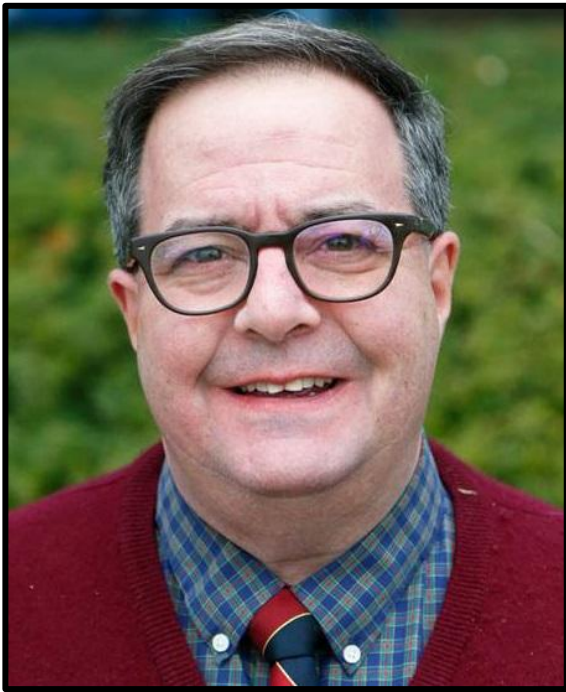
The third award earned by a VGCA member was for Gary Latta's display titled "Colt AR15 Sporter II – the Road to the Government Model" (*above*). This display of semi-automatic rifles took Gary about four years to assemble and includes all the features of the transition from the Colt Sporter I to Government Model (essentially, the civilian version of the M16A2).

Be sure to congratulate these gentlemen the next time you see them! If you want to attend the All Colt Convention this year, it will be held October 1-4 in Noblesville, Indiana.



FINAL SALUTE: EDWIN PHILIP “PHIL” SCHREIER III

By Marc Gorelick



The gun collecting community lost a great friend and champion when Phil Schreier passed away on December 29, 2025, at his home at the age of 63 after a long fight against leukemia. A Life Member of the Virginia Gun Collectors Association (VGCA), Phil supported the organization, and gun collecting as a whole throughout his remarkable career at the NRA. He was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word.

Born September 30, 1962, Phil was a graduate of the University of Maryland. He was always interested in history as well as photography – photo combat journalism. His love of history also led him to Civil War reenacting. Widely respected as one of the world's leading authorities on historical firearms, he had an extraordinarily deep and wide knowledge of firearms and firearms history that he was able to communicate to other experts as well as the general public. He was generous with his knowledge and was

one of the best communicators that I had the privilege of knowing. He made the history of firearms come alive and was able to transmit and infuse his passion for the subject in others. In fact, his love of history, particularly the history of firearms, was second to none.

Phil's 36-year long career with the National Rifle Association, starting in June 1989, is remarkable. He started as a curatorial assistant at the previous National Firearms Museum in Washington, D.C., before being elevated to senior curator, a position he served in for most of his long career. It is not widely known that in 2003, Phil was the NRA's first accredited war correspondent since the Second World War. As such in 2003 he spent 30 days in Iraq with the 101st Division and in 2009 he was in Afghanistan with the 1st MEB.

As senior curator and finally Director of the NRA Museums, he oversaw the National Firearms Museum, which opened in 1997 at the NRA's headquarters in Fairfax, Virginia, as well as the NRA National Sporting Arms Museum at Cabelas in Springfield, Missouri and the Frank Brownell Museum of the Southwest in Raton, New Mexico. In many respects, Phil's vision helped shape those museums. Phil was the face of the NRA through his numerous television appearances and public engagements. He regularly appeared on NRA News, American Rifleman Television, the History Channel, A&E channel and a number of other cable TV shows. He was co-host of *Gun Gurus* on the Outdoor Channel with former NRA Museums Director Jim Supica. Among his many roles, Phil managed the NRA Gun Collecting Department. In that role he represented the NRA at numerous gun and arms shows and firearms trade shows and was in charge of the important gun collecting area at the NRA Annual Meetings.



Besides his television appearances, Phil was a prolific author. An avid historian and consummate researcher, he wrote innumerable articles about guns and military history for not only the NRA publications like the National Rifleman but also others such as Man-at-Arms. Seventy two of his articles can be accessed on the NRA Museum website:
<https://www.nramuseum.org/gun-info-research.aspx>.

Phil was also the author of many books, either by himself or in collaboration with other firearms experts. These books include:

"The Illustrated History of Firearms": In Association with the National Firearms Museum

"The Illustrated History of Firearms: Revised and Updated 2nd Edition"

"Treasures of the NRA National Firearms Museum"

"Guns of the Old West"

"Shotguns" with Jim Supica

"Treasures of the NRA National Firearms Museum: Exploring the World's Finest and Most Famous Guns" with Jim Supica and Doug Wicklund

And

"Treasures of the NRA National Firearms Museum: Revised and Updated Second Edition" with Jim Supica and Doug Wicklund.

Phil not only wrote but encouraged other gun collectors, including me, to write and share their knowledge. He was not only a member of the VGCA but he was also a respected member of other collecting organizations, including the prestigious American Society of Arms Collectors (ASAC), the Company of Military Historians, and he was an honorary member of the Potomac Arms Collecting Association (PACA). He was a respected and trusted voice within the firearms community and a fierce defender of the 2nd Amendment.

Perhaps one of the best spontaneous tributes to Phil was given by an unidentified VGCA member in a post on a gun forum:

“Sad to hear. I only knew Phil through the Virginia Gun Collector’s Association. He was absolutely OCD about knowing the most intrinsic details of every model firearm ever made. However, unlike many “experts” he always possessed the capacity to learn more. If he was mistaken about something, he expected you to call him out on it. While he often made presentations, he was also a very engaged member of the audience, taking in everything the speaker was saying.

“I recall one particular occasion during the show & tell part of one of meetings. A more novice collector was struggling through his presentation. His facts were straight but his stage presence was lacking. Phil put him at ease and prompted him with questions that allowed the novice to stay on track. A real class act.

“I’ll always remember Phil as a very knowledgeable, very modest, gentleman, dedicated to preserving both history and the Right to keep and bear arms.”

Another post, on The Muzzleloading Forum, demonstrated what a gentleman he was:

“Phil was one of the good guys. He never hesitated to answer inquiries or help out a fellow firearms curator. He always made me feel welcome at the NRA and always invited us out to dinner while at different firearms symposiums in Cody, Wyoming.

“On one of those trips, we were at the Cody airport waiting for our flight to Denver and later D.C. A couple of folks recognized him from the NRA TV shows. He was gracious, took time to speak with them, and thanked them for watching and supporting the NRA.

“He was a true, firearms expert and Gentleman.”



Phil Schreier will be missed. He was a world-renowned giant in the gun collecting community who made lasting contributions to the collecting and history of firearms that hopefully will live on and enrich us all for a long time. He is survived by his mother.



★ In Review ★

The “In Review” section of the newsletter includes VGCA member reviews of gun shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the newsletter editor at rpebecker@verizon.net.

A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM: REVOLUTIONARY WAR EXHIBIT AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE U.S. ARMY

By Marc Gorelick

If you haven't already seen this special exhibit at the National Museum of the U.S. Army then you should make an extra effort to see it before it disappears. This landmark exhibition commemorates the U.S. Army's 250th Birthday as well as the anniversary of the American Revolution and the birth of the United States. This unique display features rare Revolutionary War artifacts from the original colonies, England, France and Canada. Curated specifically for this exhibit, this collection of about 285 one-of-a-kind artifacts, many on display for the first time, creates a powerful and unforgettable presentation of our nation's origin. Besides the items that belong to the Army museum, many of the artifacts were loaned specifically for this exhibit by other U.S. and foreign museums, cultural institutions and private collectors.



Matched set of George Washington's pistols. Photo by author.

Many of the artifacts are documented to specific persons who took part in the Revolutionary War. This enhances the stories that the exhibit tells. In fact, much of the history related in the exhibit is told through the eyes and experiences of participants of both sides in that struggle, from the lowest private to the most senior generals. Some of these individuals are depicted by realistic, life-sized cast figures.

Among the exhibit's highlights are a pair of General George Washington's pistols, the original flag of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment carried by the Army's first African American Soldiers, and a complete



Loyalist uniform—one of the rarest items in the collection. British General Charles Lord Cornwallis's sword, presented to Washington at the surrender at Yorktown, Virginia, and one of George Washington's personal swords, a cuttose, will also be displayed for a limited time. This is the sword that Washington carried from 1779 through 1783 – the last four years of the Revolutionary War. Washington's cuttose was made by John Bailey and is noted for its portrayal in several paintings of Washington, making probably the most identifiable sword used during the Revolution. It is on loan and will be returned to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

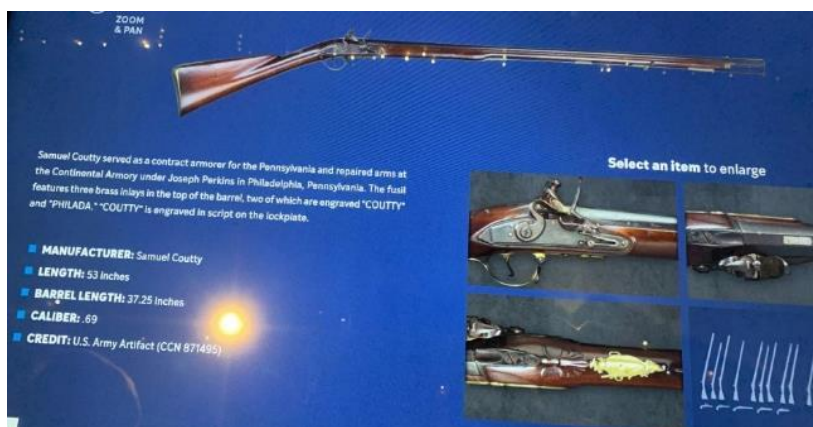
Cornwallis's sword was loaned for the exhibit by his family in England and is due to be returned to them soon. Other famous swords on display include American General Daniel Morgan's sword (one of the most respected American commanders and victor at the Battle of Cowpens). This sword bears the Spanish inscription that translates as "*Draw me not without reason. Sheath me not without honor.*" And there is the sword surrendered by British Major Patrick Ferguson's second in command Loyalist Captain de Peyster at King's Mountain after American militia shot and killed Ferguson.

George Washington's sword that he carried for the last four years of the war, his gorget, and a copy of his commission as Commander in Chief of the army. The display lighting left a lot to be desired. Photo by author.

There are plenty of period documents, from the mundane to the exceptional. The seemingly mundane but historical one-of-a-kind documents include muster and pay books, supply lists and invoices, including a clothing invoice issued to Colonel (later General) Anthony Wayne. Next to his invoice are the epaulettes that he wore during the 1776 Canadian Campaign when he commanded the 4th Pennsylvania Battalion. The documents include surrender documents and commissions, including a copy of George Washington's commission from Congress naming him Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. His gorget was displayed next to his sword and commission. (Note: A gorget was originally a piece of armor that protected the neck and throat. By the 1700's it had evolved into an ornamental crescent-shaped steel badge for officers that symbolized rank.)

As one would expect, there are many guns on display. At the upper level they include an American 6-pounder bronze cannon made by James Byers of New York in 1777 for George Washington (one of only two marked American bronze guns in existence) and a 10-inch French mortar used by the Americans at Yorktown. There are numerous muskets, rifles and pistols on display that were used by combatants of all sides – American (Patriot and Loyalist), French, British, Hessian and Indian. These include many rare pieces. Among the rifles are Pennsylvania Long Rifles (including one made by noted Pennsylvania gunsmith Jacob Dickert), a genuine Ferguson Rifle (on temporary loan from the Council of the National Army Museum in London), and German Jager rifles used by Hessian light infantry. Other American rifles are those made by or worked on by prominent Lancaster County gunsmith Joseph Ferree and Samuel Coutty, who served as a contract armorer for Pennsylvania and repaired arms at the Continental Armory under Joseph Perkins in Philadelphia. Muskets on display include several French Charleville, examples of both the Long and Short Land Pattern British Brown Bess, German muskets, Dutch and

Spanish arms, and American made arms. Besides the longer firearms there are also numerous carbines and pistols, some of which are documented to historical soldiers on both sides.



Above - Interactive screen showing Samuel Coutty rifle.

Left – Some of the many firearms on display. A flashlight or other light was needed to see the details.

Photos by author.

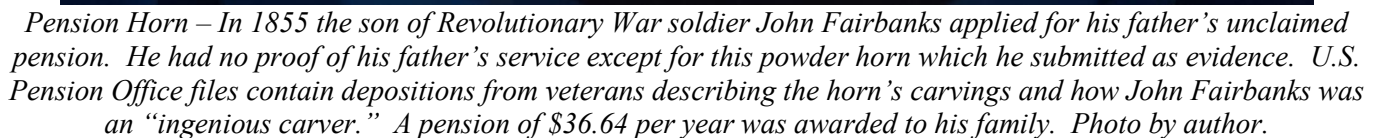
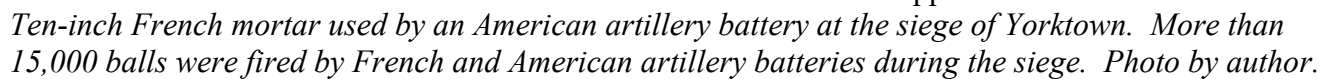


Left and above – details of Samuel Coutty rifle as shown in the interactive screen. The gun images in the interactive screen are keyed to the guns in the display. Photos by author.

Also on display are numerous accessories, accoutrements and uniforms. Accessories include La Fayette's watch, given to him by George Washington. Among the gun-related items are many American carved powder horns. Carved powder horns are not only utilitarian tools but also a unique American art form that provides a record of the men who carried and used them and the battles they fought. Among the uniforms is the only known example of a complete Loyalist uniform.

Despite the obvious rarity and historical importance of the items on display, the exhibit does have a major shortcoming. This is the lighting. The lighting is so bad that most of the exhibit and displays are dark. The weapon displays are so dark that it is hard to see any details without shining a flashlight on the artifact (which is frowned upon). The lighting was probably intentionally made dim, not to increase the displays' dramatic effect, but rather to protect the delicate one-of-a-kind artifacts, especially the delicate old handwritten parchment documents. There was an attempt to mitigate the dim lighting in a huge display of firearms. Each hard-to-see firearm in that display is numbered and there is a computerized touch screen where you can see large images of the weapon under bright light. These images include enlarged photos of the smallest details that rival the best photos in gun books or leading auction house websites. Unfortunately, this was the only display observed with this feature.

The 5,000 square foot Revolutionary War exhibit opened June 7, 2025, and will be at the museum for only two years, until June 2027. After that the artifacts will either go back into storage or be returned to the people and institutions that lent them to the Army Museum. Washington's and Cornwallis's swords will return to their lenders much sooner. So this is a limited time to see possibly the finest curated display of rare and historically important Revolutionary War artifacts. As Paul Morando, Chief Curator of the National Museum of the United States Army said, "The rarity of these artifacts is breathtaking, and to have them brought together for public display is something that may never occur again." But it is not just the rarity of the items on display, the exhibit tells the story Americans fighting together while enduring immense hardship and tribulation, who forged something new: a national identity. An identity that would continue to be defined as the war progressed. So if you care anything about American history and the struggle that gave birth to our country, you should see this once-in-a-lifetime exhibit before it disappears.



The National Museum of the United States Army is located at 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060. Getting there is easy: Take I-95 to exit 166A toward VA-286 South/Fairfax County Parkway. Continue for 2.5 miles and turn left onto Liberty Drive. The museum is open most days, 9AM to 5PM (closed Thanksgiving and Christmas) and parking is free. And admission is free. There is a cafeteria and a big gift shop. For more information, go the museum's website at <https://www.thenmusa.org/>. The phone number is 1 (800) 506-2672. The e-mail address is customerservice@armyhistory.org.

★ Show-n-Tell ★

NOTE: For anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell - please hold the item up so the members in attendance can see it. This will also help your photographer get a sharp picture and allow people who cannot attend the meeting to see it clearly in the newsletter. We also ask that you provide a Fact Sheet (copies of the one below will be provided at the meeting) to assist the newsletter editor in accurately describing your item. Thank you!

VGCA Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____ Action Type: _____

Caliber: _____

Years of Production: _____ Total Produced: _____

Year this example was manufactured (if known): _____

Significance: _____

Question(s) for members: _____

Name (optional): _____

Where acquired (optional): _____ When acquired (optional): _____

A message from your VGCA Photographer--

I ask those who bring items in for Show-and-Tell to PLEASE hold the item UP and in view of the audience so that they can be seen clearly, and so that I might be able to get a decent picture for the newsletter. PLEASE stand behind the tables and simply hold the item at chest or waist level, face forward, stand still, and give me a five or six seconds to grab a decent photograph of the Show-and-Tell item.

If you do not want your Show-and-Tell item to be shared with other VGCA members, just tell me in advance and I will not attempt to take a photo of it.

I do photography for the VGCA and its' members, not for myself, and not for any personal gain. Your assistance in documenting your items will be a great help. I spend an average of five hours editing the pictures for the newsletter and not having a clear view of the subject has been a great and constant frustration for me.

Your help will assist in making a better newsletter for all VGCA members. Thank you!

Jack Looney

December Show-n-Tell



Member 1 brought in his newest acquisition, a Winchester Model 52B (*left*). The Winchester Model 52 was a target rifle chambered in .22LR and designed for small bore rifle competitions. It was introduced in 1920 and remained in production until 1980. It is widely regarded as the finest target .22 ever produced and was the pride of high school, college, and shooting club arms rooms for decades. This example was a very recent purchase from the Civilian Marksmanship Program and just arrived this week. It is Marked "U.S. Property" and was probably used by an ROTC or JROTC program at some point. Manufactured in 1952, it came without sights or a magazine, but when so equipped it should make an excellent shooter.



★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

PLEASE NOTE: VGCA members are strongly encouraged to verify shows before driving to an event. These dates were confirmed when this newsletter was written but are not guaranteed. Shows highlighted in **yellow** are shows with a collector focus.

VIRGINIA – 2026

- Jan 24-25, 2026 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- Jan 24-25, 2026 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Jan 31-Feb 1, 2026 – Hillsville, VA – Grove King VFW Post 1115 – *Grove King VFW*
- Feb 6-8, 2026 – Manassas, VA – Manassas Mall, 8358 Sudley Rd – *Showmasters*
- Feb 14-15, 2026 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- Feb 21-22, 2026 – Dublin, VA – New River Valley Fairgrounds – *Gun Slingers*
- Feb 28-Mar 1, 2025 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW Post 1503 – *VGCA (Our Show!)*
- Mar 7-8, 2025 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E*
- Mar 21-22, 2026 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- Mar 21-22, 2026 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Apr 11-12, 2026 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Fairgrounds – *SGK*
- Apr 17-19, 2026 – Manassas, VA – Manassas Mall, 8358 Sudley Rd – *Showmasters*
- Apr 25-26, 2026 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- Apr 25-26, 2026 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- May 2-3, 2026 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- May 16-17, 2026 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fraternal Order of Eagles – *SGK*
- May 16-17, 2026 – Wytheville, VA – Hitachi Energy Center (formerly Apex Event Center) - *Showmasters*
- May 22-25, 2026 – Hillsville, VA – Grove King VFW Post 1115 – *Grove King VFW*
- May 30-31, 2026 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*

MARYLAND – 2026

- Jan 17-18, 2026 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Jan 31-Feb 1, 2026 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Appalachian*
- Feb 13-15, 2026 – Jarrettsville, MD – Jarrettsville Gardens – *Izaak Walton League of America*
- Mar 7-8, 2026 – Easton, MD – Easton Vol. Fire Dept. – *Shore Shot Promotions*
- Mar 21-22, 2026 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – *Maryland Arms Collectors Association (the 70th Year Baltimore Antique Arms Show)*
- Apr 11-12, 2026 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Appalachian*
- Apr 18-19, 2026 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Apr 25-26, 2026 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- May 9-10, 2026 – Crownsville, MD – Anne Arundel Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2026

- Jan 24-25, 2026 – Gettysburg, PA – Allstar Events Complex – *Eagle Shows*
- Jan 24-25, 2026 – Quarryville, PA – Southern Lancaster County Fairgrounds – *Lancaster Muzzleloading Rifle Association*
- Jan 31-Feb 1, 2026 – Lebanon, PA – Lebanon Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Feb 6-8, 2026 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Feb 7-8, 2026 – Benton, PA – Benton Fire Company – *Benton Volunteer Fire Company*
- Feb 7-8, 2026 – Hermitage, PA – Hickory VFW 6166 – *Canon's Gun Room*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2026 (continued)

- Feb 14-15, 2026 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Feb 14-15, 2026 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eagle Shows*
- Feb 14-15, 2026 – Clintonville, PA – Clintonville Vol Fire Dept – *Clintonville VFD*
- Feb 21-22, 2026 – Ellwood City, PA – Wurtemburg Perry VFD - *Wurtemburg Perry VFD*
- Feb 21-22, 2026 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Feb 28-Mar 1, 2026 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- Mar 7, 2026 – Wampum, PA – Chewton VFD Hall – *Ellwood Wampum Rod & Gun Club*
- Mar 7-8, 2026 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Hotel at Hunt's Landing – *Westchester Collectors Inc.*
- Mar 7-8, 2026 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Mar 14, 2026 – Baden, PA – Ambridge District Sportsman Club – *ADSA*
- Apr 14-15, 2026 – East Berlin – East Berlin Fish & Game – *East Berlin Fish & Game*
- Mar 14-15, 2026 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Mar 14-15, 2026 – Lander, PA – Lander Volunteer Fire Department – *Lander Fire Dept.*
- Mar 14-15, 2026 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Mar 14-15, 2026 – New Providence, PA – Southern Lancaster County Farmers-Sportsmen's Association Clubhouse - *SLCFSA*
- Mar 20-21, 2026 – Shippensburg, PA – Oak Grove Events Building – *Allegheny Log Homes*
- Mar 21-22, 2026 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eagle Shows*
- Mar 21-22, 2026 – Conneaut Lake, PA – Conneaut Lake Sportsmans Assoc – *Glen Favorite*
- Mar 21-22, 2026 – Franklin, PA – Rocky Grove Fire Hall – *Rocky Grove Vol. Fire Dept.*
- Mar 28, 2026 – Wampum, PA – Possum Hollow Sportsman's Club – *PHSA*
- Mar 28-29, 2026 – Gettysburg, PA – Redding Auction Hall – *Central PA Antique Arms Assoc*
- Mar 28-29, 2026 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – *Eagle Shows*
- Apr 4, 2026 – Harborcreek, PA – Gem City Gun Club – *Gem City Gun Club*
- Apr 11-12, 2026 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- Apr 11-12, 2026 – State College, PA – C3 Sports & Events Center – *Showmasters*
- Apr 17-19, 2026 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Apr 25-26, 2026 – Union City, PA – Union City Vol. Fire Dept. – *Randy Peterson*
- May 2-3, 2026 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- May 9-10, 2026 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- May 16-17, 2026 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eagle Shows*
- May 17, 2026 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1*

SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2026

- Jan 23-24, 2026 – Las Vegas, NV – Westgate Resort & Casino – *Morphy Auctions*
- Feb 7-8, 2026 – Columbus, OH – Kasich Hall, Ohio State Expo – *OGCA*
- Mar 7-8, 2026 – Wellington, OH – Ross Expo Center, Lorain County Fairgrounds - *OGCA*
- Apr 11-12, 2026 – Tulsa, OK – Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) – *Wanenmacher – World's Largest Gun Show* – 4200+ tables!
- May 30-31, 2026 – Columbus, OH – Kasich Hall, Ohio State Expo Cntr – *OGCA Display Show*

NOTE: OGCA Gun Shows are not open to the public – they are restricted to members and invited guests only. Several VGCA members are also members of OGCA and can sponsor you if you are interested in attending.

FOR SALE:

The "For Sale" section of the Virginia Gun Collectors Association (VGCA) Newsletter is provided as a service exclusively to the members of the VGCA and is intended for listing firearms and firearm related items. The VGCA, its officers, and directors are not responsible for any listings made in any VGCA Newsletter. We are not responsible for the accuracy (condition, value, etc.) of any listings. All buyers, traders, and sellers agree to comply with all local, state, federal, and international laws in regard to items sold via the VGCA Newsletter. It is their duty and responsibility to ensure the quality and value of the transaction and that all such laws are followed at all times. Buy, sell, or trade at your own risk.

If you would like to list an item (or items) in the VGCA Newsletter, please send your description, price, and contact information to rpebecker@verizon.net. I must receive your material no later than the second Sunday of the month for it to be included in that month's newsletter. Items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

VGCA Logo Available at Lands' End

Here's how to order your apparel:

1. Go to the VGCA store on Lands' End business:
<https://business.landsend.com/store/vgca>
 - a. It must be the URL shown above. **Do not** go to the regular Lands' End website. It will not show our logo options.
2. Above the photo on the home page click on "Men" or "Women"
3. On the drop-down menu select what you are interested in. For example, Men>Activewear>Tops gives you 19 different styles and fabrics of men's shirts. When you have selected an item click on it and select your color, size and quantity. Then on the lower right-hand corner of the screen click on the blue "Apply Logos" button.
4. On the next screen click on the VGCA logo to choose it and it will open the "select a Location" menu showing where you can have the VGCA logo embroidered. Choose a location and then scroll down to the "Apply Logo" button in the lower right corner and click it. It will return you to your garment page.
5. If you are satisfied with your garment, color, size and logo location click on the "Add to Bag" button in the lower right corner.
6. Then you can then go to checkout or continue shopping. When you checkout it will show an additional \$8.95 for embroidery.



If you have any questions, you can reach Bruce Buchner at 703-339-8212 or Buchnerb@cox.net

FOR SALE:

❖ **FINNISH MOSIN-NAGANT** is authored by VGCA member Matt DiRisio and published by Wet Dog Publications. The list price is \$99.95. It is 584 pages long with over 1,500 color and black and white photographs.

For ordering information go to the Wet Dog Publications website at:

<https://www.fnbrowning.com/book-finnish-mosin-nagant>

FOR SALE:

★ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has published his book **Guns of the FBI**. This book is available at GunDigest.com or can be purchased directly from Bill by calling 703-626-2975. He is more than happy to sign a copy for you. Cost is \$50.00.

FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Charlie Pate has four books that he has authored for sale, at discounted prices for VGCA members. These include:

- "U.S. Handguns of World War II" - \$45.00
- "The Smith & Wesson American Model" - \$55.00
- "U.S. Military Arms Inspector Marks" - \$45.00
- "The Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver" - \$60.00

If interested, please contact Charlie at usarmsresearch@gmail.com

FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Larry Babcock has published a companion piece to his earlier book **M1 Garand Photo Essay**. This second book, titled **M1 Garand Photo Essay Volume II** covers all new material, to include the M1C and M1D sniper rifles as well as a myriad of M1 accessories. Best of all, both books are offered at a discount to VGCA members. Volume I is normally priced at \$69 and volume II lists for \$49, VGCA members can buy them directly from Larry for \$60 and \$40 each respectively - or \$90 total if you buy both. Look for Larry Babcock set up near the VGCA recruiting table at the next Chantilly Gun Show or order from him directly at larrybab@comcast.net / or text to 703-856-2561.

FOR SALE:

★ Lefever Arms "Nitro Special". 12-gauge with 2 ¾ inch chambers, 28-inch barrels choked Full and Modified. \$950

Contact Jack via email to looney.house@verizon.net or text to 703-999-9458.



FOR SALE:

★ 1968 Winchester Model 70 chambered in .270 Winchester. Excellent condition. Accepting offers.



★ Four boxes of Freedom Munitions 10mm X-DEF 200gr
List price is \$29.65 each - Asking \$25 each

Contact Steven Philippy at dhilliard54@duck.com or 703-927-9210.

WANT TO BUY:

★ Browning lever action Gold Medallion, short action, blue or silver.

Also: Browning lever action with pistol grip and take down. Prefer .308 but any considered.

Call King at (703) 576-7016, if there is no answer leave name and number with a brief description.

Thank you, King von Schilling



WANT TO BUY:

★ Seeking a Bagnold Sun Compass, used during WWII by British desert troops. It was mounted on their vehicles. Must be complete and in working order. Contact Jack via email to looney.house@verizon.net or text to (703) 999-9458.



WANT TO BUY:

★ VGCA Life Member and Federal Firearms License dealer Colonel Ed Cercone, USMC, is seeking to enhance his collection and is looking for the following firearms in pristine condition and preferably with correct box. Ed can be reached at Lkcercone@aol.com or at (703) 323-6358. Mirror finish pieces are most desired.

S&W Model 56 KTX - 38

S&W Model 73

S&W Model 59 Blue or Nickel

S&W Model 39-2 Alloy 7.65 mm

S&W Model 39 Steel Frame

S&W Model 39 Alloy Blue or Nickel

S&W Model 66 Combat 2 1/2" 357 mag

S&W Model 66 No Dash 2 1/2" 357 mag

S&W 386 SCS Airweight

Beretta Model 1934 (7.65) With High Polish Finish or Italian Air Force Production or

Model 1935 possibly with a high polish finish in 7.65

The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is Newsletter@vgca.net - or you can reach the editor directly at rpebecker@verizon.net. Feel free to e-mail items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via e-mail or the mailed hard copy, please contact Rob Becker or George Dungan.